

The history of Brooklyn has roughly paralleled that of neighboring municipalities in the industrial area along the Mississippi River, across from St. Louis. Many of its residents readily found work in the stockyards and factories that flourished into the middle of the last century. As those industries left, so did the jobs that allowed the citizens of Brooklyn to provide for their families.

Despite recent hard times, the same spirit that led those first courageous settlers to establish this community still lives on. The village motto is, "Founded by Chance, Sustained by Courage," and those words inspire the current generation to seek new opportunities for their community. The "North Star" Corridor Economic Alliance Project is one example of a new implementation of the community's founding values.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 133rd anniversary of the Village of Brooklyn, Illinois and to wish them the best as they move forward in the years to come.

KIMBERLY FLYNN ON 9/11
ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to read the statement of Kimberly Flynn, a member of 9/11 Environmental Action, a community group in New York City focused on environmental and health impacts of the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Ms. Flynn gave this statement at a rally in New York City that I attended to bring attention to the health problems that continue to exist from 9/11.

Good afternoon. I'm Kimberly Flynn and I represent 9/11 Environmental Action. We're community activists. For nearly 5 years, we've been fighting for the comprehensive EPA cleanup that never happened. And we're also fighting for the health needs of all those harmed by 9/11 pollution to be met.

In the days after 9/11, like many people, my mother in New Orleans was glued to CNN. Now, my mother has no expertise in occupational health and safety, but she called me with concern in her voice: Kim, why are some people digging through all that rubble wearing respirators, but most people are not? Isn't that going to cause serious problems down the line?

How is it that our government, whose job it is to protect human health from the unprecedented and obvious hazards never asked that question?

After 9/11, when two of the tallest buildings in the world were reduced to rubble, and the air was thick with dust and smoke . . . when toxic dust penetrated into buildings throughout the area, they told all of us it was safe.

At a time when your heroism and patriotism were the admiration of the entire world, they told the people of Lower Manhattan it was their patriotic duty to go about their business.

Well, I have a question for President Bush and Governor Pataki: It has been nearly 5 years, when are you going to do your patriotic duty?

To Governor Pataki: Your Ground Zero legacy is at stake. You must act to fix the unconscionable workers comp fiasco . . . NOW.

To President Bush: We will not let you leave office without acknowledging to the American people that so many of those workers, volunteers and cleanup workers who came to the rescue on and after 9/11 are sick . . . as are many others who live, work and go to school in Lower Manhattan. And that they need and deserve our government's help . . . NOW.

We will not let you leave office without making a full commitment to provide for the long-term 9/11 health needs of everyone harmed by these obvious and unprecedented hazards.

These are days of desperation for many of you, and our hearts go out to you and all those suffering from their Ground Zero exposures. But more than that, we are with you! We are yours in the struggle for justice, for the duration.

IN HONOR OF ELAINE CASS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elaine Cass, whose law career represents success, accomplishment, and community service. Throughout an illustrious career spanning both the professional and academic realms of law, Elaine's tireless dedication has provided inspiration for friends and colleagues alike. As City Attorney, Elaine represented citizens and their elected representatives on behalf of the cities of Hollister and Seaside.

Elaine was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, graduating from William Lyon Mackenzie High School in 1968. She attended the University of California, Berkeley where she received her Bachelor of the Arts degree in English literature. In 1975 she received her law degree from Santa Clara University and was admitted to the California State Bar the following year. Wasting no time, Elaine immediately embarked upon her law career working for the next six years with Legal Aid Society of Monterey County. Elaine returned to academia in 1978, becoming a law lecturer at both Santa Clara University and Monterey College of Law. While she continued to practice law throughout her university lecturing years, Elaine's educational contributions did nothing to diminish her professional ambition. If anything, lecturing on the ethical nature of law seemed to enhance her already impressive career trajectory.

Elaine served as the City Attorney for Seaside for 11 years. She also served in the same capacity for the City of Hollister, where she initiated the first code enforcement program with an emphasis on substandard housing. It was later expanded to include a relocation program which requires landlords to compensate tenants displaced by such housing. Always mindful of community interests and individual concerns, Elaine successfully blended responsibility and conscientiousness to be an attorney who is both respected by her colleagues and admired by the people she represents.

Elaine is married to Robert Zweben, and has two children, with her first grandchild on the way. Masterfully balancing family, career, and the desire to give back to society, Elaine's many achievements cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, throughout her career, Elaine has made significant contributions, both professionally and academically, to the study of law. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate the accomplishments of Elaine Cass and express my sincere gratitude for her commitment to her community.

“COMFORT WOMEN”

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, United States and Japan have, since the end of hostilities in 1945, enjoyed a strong friendship, an economic partnership, and a diplomatic alliance.

Because our countries have such a durable relationship, it is possible for us, when circumstances demand, to offer criticism to each other in regard to issues of grave concern.

The occasion of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to the United States, in which he will be meeting with President Bush and other prominent Americans, provides a special opportunity for gentle but pointed criticism of one of our ally's shortcomings.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Smith) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Evans) have introduced H. Res. 759, legislation that calls on Japan to acknowledge and accept responsibility for forcing women and girls into sexual slavery during the World War II era. In Korea, China, the Philippines, and other countries in the Pacific region, the Japanese use of women and little girls as sex slaves known as "comfort women" was among the most horrific degradations imaginable.

Sadly, despite decades of democratic rule and engagement with the United States and other countries that have condemned human trafficking of the past and of today, the Japanese government refuses to apologize to the world for its role in this atrocity. In fact, it will not even acknowledge Japan's responsibility for the suffering of so many women and girls forced into prostitution.

"Comfort women" were recruited in countries throughout Asia and the Pacific as Japanese troops advanced through conquest in the 1930s and 1940s. The suffering and humiliation of these girls and women ended only with the peace that came with the end of the war.

H. Res. 759 sends a strong signal to Japan, a friend and ally of the United States, that American leaders are not satisfied with the silence of the Japanese government on this human rights issue. I urge my colleagues to become cosponsors of this resolution and to bring this issue close to their hearts.

Mr. Speaker, on this issue, I commend to the House an article that appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Sunday, June 18, written by international health consultant Cesar Chelala and entitled "Japan Must Atone for Acts of Savagery."

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer,
June 18, 2006]

JAPAN MUST ATONE FOR ACTS OF SAVAGERY
(By Cesar Chelala)

Japan's continuing refusal to reach an agreement with the former "comfort